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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, April 12, 1984 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended April 7 totaled an estimated 17.6 billion ton-miles, 22.0 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 14 weeks of 1984 was an estimated 240.7 billion ton-miles, 14.3 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended April 7 totaled 399,844, 18.7 percent above 1983, but 4.1 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 20.9 percent in the East, 10.2 percent in the South and 22.5 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1983, 18 of the 21 commodity groups were up. Loadings of motor vehicles and equipment increased by 6,051 cars (39.7 percent), grain loadings posted a gain of 8,173 cars (38.5 percent), and coal loadings were up 17,126 cars (17.8 percent). Fourteen of the 21 groups declined from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended March 31 totaled 55,201 cars, up 29.7 percent from the corresponding week of 1983, and 93,296 trailers and/or containers, 26.2 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 13 weeks of the year was 643,792 cars, 18.2 percent higher than last year, and 1,125,126 trailers and/or containers, up 20.3 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 4/7/84:

	Loadings in Week ended April 7, 1984		Change from Corresponding Week 1983			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	29,414	I	8,173	38.5	I	992	3.4
Other farm products	4,281	I	1,581	58.6	I	834	19.5
Metallic ores	15,210	I	838	5.8	D	2,993	19.7
Coal	113,236	I	17,126	17.8	D	7,935	7.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	10,783	I	1,748	19.3	I	885	8.2
Nonmetallic minerals	11,243	I	453	4.2	D	1,460	13.0
Grain mill products	10,368	D	147	1.4	D	958	9.2
Food and kindred products	10,819	D	1,094	9.2	D	717	6.6
Primary forest products	13,962	D	93	0.7	D	34	0.2
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,523	I	1,007	15.5	D	1,076	14.3
Pulp, paper and allied products	15,180	I	511	3.5	D	768	5.1
Chemicals and allied products	24,812	I	2,299	10.2	D	2,024	8.2
Petroleum products	5,180	I	802	18.3	I	654	12.6
Stone, clay and glass products	11,263	I	1,788	18.9	I	138	1.2
Coke	5,636	I	977	21.0	I	267	4.7
Metals and products	10,911	I	2,297	26.7	D	419	3.8
Motor vehicles and equipment	21,297	I	6,051	39.7	D	498	2.3
Waste and scrap materials	10,069	I	2,322	30.0	D	833	8.3
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	8,035	I	28	0.3	I	526	6.5
All other carloads	60,350	I	16,131	36.5	D	1,643	2.7
LCL traffic	272	I	68	33.3	D	29	10.7
Total Cars Loaded	399,844	I	62,866	18.7	D	17,091	4.1
Corresponding week of 1983	336,978						

	1984	1983	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (14 weeks)	5,448,818	4,801,550	I 13.5
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
13 weeks ended March 31	223.1	196.1	I 13.8
Week ended April 7	17.6	14.4	I 22.0
14 weeks cumulative	240.7	210.6	I 14.3

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